

Dahlke, 29, who died August 29, 2009, while serving our Nation in Afghanistan on his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror. Staff Sergeant Dahlke was a distinguished soldier serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

SSG Jason Dahlke was born on November 8, 1979, in Tampa and was raised in Jacksonville with his brother and three sisters. Prior to joining the Army, he attended the University of Central Florida where he graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and married his grade school sweetheart Niki Marie Norvell Dahlke. Mrs. Dahlke recalls her husband as her "best friend" and "hero."

We should all remember SSG Dahlke's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The freedom and liberty we enjoy and the peace in the world for others for which he fought are part of the great legacy that SSG Dahlke leaves behind. He was laid to rest at the new Jacksonville National Veterans Cemetery on September 5, 2009. SSG Jason Dahlke is the first American killed in combat to be interred at Florida's newest veterans cemetery.

SSG Dahlke will be remembered as a dedicated servant of the country he loved. During his time in the Army, SSG Dahlke received a Purple Heart and two Army Commendation Medals that he never mentioned to his parents. They only learned of their son's achievements by way of the internet. In one of his last conversations with his parents, SSG Dahlke told his family that he loved his job and that he would continue to do it as long as he could serve. Col. Michael E. Kurilla, 75th Ranger Regiment commander stated that SSG Dahlke "embodied the Ranger Creed and all that is good, noble and honored in our Rangers."

With the passing of SSG Dahlke, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving son.

To his wife Niki, his mother Deborah, his father Roger and his loving family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize SSG Jason Dahlke's contributions and to ask that all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing his heroic service in our Nation's Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN "TOMMY" STEPHENSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tommy Stephenson upon his retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Stephenson has serviced the same route for over 30 years, becoming an important part of the community in Southern Madison County, Northern Hardeman County, and Western Chester County, Tennessee. Over three generations of West Tennessee families have come to know and love Mr. Tommy. The humble spirit and cheerful whistle he brought to work each and every day has touched these families in many ways.

Most inspiring to me is the fact that Mr. Stephenson has endured a physical disability that limits the use of his right hand, yet he has always been able to adapt to the many changes these past thirty years. The type of dependability and dedication he has brought to his work is rare, indeed, and we honor him for it.

Please join me in celebrating Mr. Stephenson's achievement, and wishing him well upon his retirement.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR AAHOA

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the success of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA). Founded in 1989, the AAHOA has grown to nearly 10,000 members who own more than 22,000 hotels valued at \$60 billion. These small business owners have created or supported more than one million jobs. It is my understanding that their business acumen and dedication to the hospitality industry has made AAHOA a strong leader in the tourism sector of our economy.

It was my honor to attend AAHOA's national convention earlier this year, where its members celebrated 20 years of excellence and service to their respective communities. Many AAHOA members belong to their local chambers of commerce and network with pro-business associations. I share many of the concerns of AAHOA's membership, including card check, our spiraling deficit, excessive litigation, and the proposed expansion of government into the health care arena. This is not what our country needs. We need to allow private sector businesses, like AAHOA members, to do what they do best: grow the economy, create new jobs, and provide safe, reliable, and affordable hospitality for millions of travelers.

I want to recognize the officers and leadership of AAHOA for their service to the organization: Chairman Tarun S. Patel; Vice Chairman ChandraKant I. (C.K.) Patel; Treasurer Hemant D. (Henry) Patel; Secretary Alkesh R. (Al) Patel; past Chairman Ashwin (Ash) Patel; President Fred Schwartz; Washington District Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Paul (Prashant) Patel; Southwest Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Hitesh L. Patel; and Vice President for Fair Franchising and Government Affairs and General Counsel Laura Lee Blake.

I understand that the AAHOA donated more than \$100,000 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, contributed more than \$25,000 for the victims of the Asian tsunami in 2004, they have helped open doors for investment opportunities in India, and they partnered with the United Service Organizations (USO) to create the "101,000 Room Nights for America" program, which provided complimentary rooms for deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize AAHOA and the Indian American community and look forward to working together in the future.

CONGRESSMAN J. RANDY FORBES TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN DAUGHTREY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen Daughtrey, who was 80 years old when she passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2009. America lost a community icon, public servant, and devoted daughter, wife, sister, and mother with the death of Helen Daughtrey. Helen will be remembered for her strong voice for fairness, civic duty, equality, and justice.

A long-time resident of Suffolk, Virginia, Helen was active in a myriad of service groups that improved the lives of those in the community. She served as the NAACP's Vice President for the Suffolk Branch. Helen was also a member of the American Red Cross, the Suffolk Beautification Committee, the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, the International Black Women's Congress, and Chesapeake Silver Strands Senior Citizens Club.

Helen was perhaps best known for her leadership and tireless efforts to see through the community improvement projects at The Fairgrounds and the East Washington Street corridor. Helen also tirelessly championed the conversion of the 1921 Phoenix Bank, Suffolk's first African-American bank into a black history museum.

As a lifelong member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Helen was a dutiful woman of faith. Her commitment to her community of faith was evident in her service on the Deaconess Board, and as a member of the Mass and Chapel choirs and the Harvesters' Missionary Circle. She also taught a Sunday school class and was the founder of the Afro-Centric Ministry.

Helen was a 1946 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and remained involved in the alumni chapter. Helen was the proud wife of James Otis "Buck" Daughtrey. They had four daughters—Brenda, Rhonda, Sharon, and Ida. Helen deeply touched each one of her many friends in the community, and I am proud to count myself among them.

Helen Daughtrey was the personification of determination, volunteerism, and persistence. Her deep faith drove her efforts to improve her city and the lives of the people within it. Helen's contributions to the citizens of Suffolk will not be forgotten or easily replaced, and her work will live on for generations. I can say with certainty, that at another ceremony in Helen's honor that we cannot see with our eyes, Helen is hearing the words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

CONGRATULATING DR. REGINA BENJAMIN ON HER NOMINATION AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Regina Benjamin on her